

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 L-01 SAM-01 OES-02 PM-03 SP-02

PRS-01 EA-06 IO-10 RSC-01 /064 W

----- 118917

P R 070800Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4191

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0827

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, LU

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER REQUESTS INFORMATION ON US ENERGY VIEWS

REF: STATE 265550

1. ON LATE DECEMBER 5 DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR PAUL MERTZ CALLED TO SAY THAT PRIME MINISTER THORN WANTED EMBASSY TO GIVE MFA A BRIEFING ON LATEST US ENERGY PROPOSALS. THORN, WHO HAS BEEN PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO INFORMATION ON US ENERGY VIEWS PROVIDED BY EMBASSY THROUGH MFA INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DIVISION, WANTED LATEST US THINKING DIRECTLY FROM US IN SUMMARY FORM IN ORDER TO BETTER ACQUIT HIMSELF IN SUMMIT DISCUSSION
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OF ENERGY QUESTION IN PARIS ON DECEMBER 9-10. IN

ORDER TO PROVIDE THIS BACKGROUND, DCM AND ECONOMIC
OFFICER SAW MERTZ ON DECEMBER 6.

2. MERTZ SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIMARY REASON
FOR REQUESTING BRIEFING WAS THORN'S CONCERN OVER THE
DIVERGENT US AND FRENCH POSITIONS AND HIS DESIRE TO
SEE A COMPROMISE REACHED. WE BRIEFED MERTZ AND LEFT
AIDE-MEMOIRE BASED ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S AND SECRETARY
SIMON'S SPEECHES AND INSTRUCTIONS TO IEA REPRESENTATIVE
(REFTEL) EMPHASIZING THAT US PROPOSALS AIMED AT ACHIEVING LOWER
PETROLEUM PRICE AND RECTIFYING DISTORTIONS ON US OBJEC-
TIVES THAT HAVE APPEARED IN FRENCH PRESS IN RECENT DAYS.

3. MERTZ TOLD US THAT HE EXPECTS THE SUMMIT LINEUP TO BE
EIGHT AGAINST ONE ON THE QUESTION OF ENERGY POLICY AND
THAT WHILE THORN AND THE OTHERS WOULD TRY TO CONVINCE
THE FRENCH TO MOVE CLOSER TO THE POSITION ACCEPTED BY
THE OTHERS, HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC. HE BELIEVED GAULLIST
POLITICAL PRESSURE TO BE TOO STRONG TO ALLOW GISCARD
TO MOVE ANY CLOSER TO FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE IEA AND
HENCE, DID NOT EXPECT MUCH FROM THE SUMMIT WITH REGARD TO
DECLARATIONS ON ENERGY.FARKAS

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